

Message Text

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SUBJ: CONSULAR CONFERENCE IN NAIROBI, SEPT 27-30, 1976

REF: A. STATE 170008, B. ASMARA 0545

1. EMB WILL CERTAINLY SEND ONE OFFICER TO NAIROBI CONSULAR CONFERENCE. WE ARE RELUCTANT HOWEVER TO CHOOSE EMB REP AT THIS POINT BECAUSE OF CHANGEOVER IN CONS SECTION THIS SUMMER. BOTH SECTION CHIEF AND HIS DEPUTY WILL BE RELATIVELY NEW IN SEPT. DEPUTY IS RETURNING TO CONS WORK AFTER LONG HIATUS AND MAY NEED SOME TIME BEFORE HE FEELS AT HOME IN WORK. IN ANY CASE, CHOICE OF WHETHER HE OR NEW SECTION CHIEF ATTENDS SHOULD IN OUR JUDGMENT BE MADE BY NEW CHIEF, WILLIAM STRUCK, WHO EXPECTED HERE IN MID-AUG VIA CONSULTATION IN DEPT. WE THEREFORE SUGGEST DEPT RAISE MATTER WITH STRUCK WHILE HE IS ON CONSULTATION AND ASK HIM MAKE CHOICE. EMB WILL SUPPORT HIS DECISION. IF DEPT ABSOLUTELY CANNOT WAIT UNTIL THEN FOR NOMINATION, WE WILL NOMINATE VICE CONSUL HARTFORD JENNINGS.

2. ADDIS CONCURS WITH PARA 2 ASMARA'S CABLE, PARTICULARLY THE NECESSITY FOR OUR "INTERVENTION TO EFFECT THE MOST RUDIMENTARY FUNCTIONS OF GOVERNMENT" AND THEN USUALLY ENCOUNTERING A BLANK WALL OF INCOMPETENCE, INDIFFERENCE, FEAR OR ALL OF THE ABOVE. THIS IS CERTAINLY THE MAIN STUMBLING BLOCK IN PROVIDING EFFECTIVE CONSULAR SERVICES

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TO A DEMANDING CLIENTELE, WHICH OFTEN DOES NOT UNDERSTAND

WHY THE EMBASSY CANNOT TRANSFORM THE ETHIOPIAN BUREAUCRACY INTO AN EFFICIENT, RESPONSIVE ORGANIZATION. OTHER AREAS OF CONCERN ARE:

A) THE TENDENCY OF YOUNG AMERICANS TO VISIT EAST AFRICA:

1. WITHOUT SUFFICIENT FUNDS THUS BECOMING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CASES;
2. WITH LITTLE OR NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE PROBLEMS AND DANGERS INHERENT IN HITCHHIKING, BACKPACKING AND OTHER FORMS OF OVERLAND TRAVEL IN THIS AREA;
3. WITH AN ILLUSORY VIEW OF THE EMBASSY'S ABILITY TO GET THEM OUT OF DIFFICULT SCRAPES.

WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE BROCHURES FOR EAST AFRICA SIMILAR TO THOSE PUT OUT BY THE PASSPORT OFFICE FOR TRAVEL TO EAST BLOC AND MID-EAST COUNTRIES. THE CAIRO, KHARTOUM, ADDIS ABABA, NAIROBI (AND VICE-VERSA) ROUTE IS A POPULAR ONE AND CERTAINLY THE KHARTOUM/ADDIS PORTION IS LOADED WITH POTENTIAL DANGERS. IN THOSE CASES WHERE CITIZENS HAVE BEEN THOROUGHLY BRIEFED RE THE SITUATION BUT CHOOSE TO DISREGARD WARNINGS, THE BRITISH EMBASSY HERE RECENTLY STARTED A PROCEDURE OF HAVING INDIVIDUALS SIGN A STATEMENT THAT INFORMATION WAS RECEIVED AND NOTED. ALTHOUGH LIKELY NOT A LEGALLY IMPORTANT DOCUMENT, AT LEAST THE CONSULAR OFFICER HAS SOMETHING IN WRITING WHICH SUPPORTS HIS EFFORTS TO DISSUADE THE FOOLISH SHOULD THEY LATER TURN UP AMONG THE DISAPPEARED OR DEAD. ANY OTHER THOUGHTS OR SUGGESTIONS ON THIS PROBLEM WOULD BE WELCOME FROM CONFEREES.

B) ETHIOPIA, LIKE MANY ANOTHER COUNTRY, IS IN THE MIDST OF INTERNAL TURMOIL WHICH HAS CREATED A POOL OF REAL AND POTENTIAL REFUGEES. THE PARTICULAR PROBLEM AREAS ARE:

1. ECONOMIC VS. POLITICAL REFUGEES;

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2. VERIFYING PAST HISTORIES OF REFUGEE APPLICANTS INCLUDING CLAIMED MEMBERSHIP IN OR AFFILIATION WITH ERITREAN AND TIGREAN SEPARTIST MOVEMENTS;

3. NIV MALAFIDES AMONG ETHIOPIAN APPLICANTS, MOST PROMINENTLY STUDENTS WHO FIND LITTLE OR NO REASON TO RETURN TO AN ETHIOPIA IN THROES OF A REVOLUTION. IT APPEARS TO CONSOFFS AT THIS POST THAT ETHIOPIAN

STUDENTS ARE BEING EDUCATED IN THE U.S. SIMPLY TO
ENTER THE JOB MARKET THERE.

C) THE QUESTION OF WAIVING NIV APPLICATION REQUIRE-
MENT WHEN THE PASSPORT IS ACCOMPANIED BY A DIP NOTE.
SUCH APPLICATION CONSTITUTE THE MAJORITY OF OUR NIV
ISSUANCE (A'S, G'S AND B-1/B-2 OFFICIAL OR DIPLOMATIC).
OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, THERE HAVE BEEN TWO KNOWN
INSTANCES WHERE THE POSSIBILITY OF FRAUD EXISTED IN
THE ISSUANCE OF DIP NOTES REQUESTING U.S. VISAS.

3. THE ADDIS REP WILL ALSO BE BRIEFED ON OTHER QUESTIONS
CONCERNING INTERPRETATIONS OF THE LAW AND REGULATIONS.
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